

A NEW THISTLE FROM OREGON

L. F. HENDERSON

The thistle here described as new has been known for a long time, but has been confused with other species. With its characters well worked out it seems to constitute a well marked entity. It has been named in honor of Professor Morton E. Peck of Willamette University.

Cirsium Peckii sp. nov.

Caulis robustus fistulosus 8–15 dm. altus supra lanatus capillis longis sectis; foliis prope glabris praeter rhachem lanceolato-oblongis profunde pinnatifidis vix decurrentibus apicibus spinis tenuibus flavis, inferioribus 1.5–2.5 dm. longis superioribus redactis spinis longioribus pluribus armatis; capitellis in fasciculis parvis vel solitariis axillaribus; involucro 3.5–4 cm. alto 5–6 cm. lato laxo interdum dense lanoso, squamis vix adpressis subaequalibus, exterioribus spinuloso-marginatis reliquis tenuissimis in spinas longas flavas a basi coarctantibus; corollis pallide lavenlaceis, faucibus valde dilalatis; antheris acutis.

Herbage yellowish green; stem stout and fistulose, simple below the middle, strongly striate-ridged, 8–15 dm. high, loosely woolly with long septate hairs or finally nearly glabrous toward the base; leaves lance-oblong in outline, scarcely decurrent, deeply pinnatifid, the segments 3-cleft and often low-toothed, the apices all with slender yellow spines, glabrous on both faces except the sparsely woolly midrib, the lower 1.5–2.5 dm. long, the upper reduced and with longer and more copious spines; heads clustered or solitary at the ends of the stem or branches or in the upper axils; involucre 3.5–4 cm. high, 5–6 cm. broad, loosely, often copiously arachnoid-woolly, the bracts not closely appressed, the outer grading into the peduncular bracts, spinulose-margined, the others very narrow and tapering almost from the base into long yellow spines; corollas pale lavender, the throat rather strongly dilated, equaling or longer than the tube, the lobes acute; anthers acute.

Type. Dry rocky sagebrush land, Alvord Ranch, east base of Steen Mountains, Harney County, Oregon, June 6, 1927, *Henderson 8521* (Herbarium of the University of Oregon, Eugene).

Specimens examined. HARNEY COUNTY: dry bank of stream near Alvord Ranch, east base of Steen Mountains, June 6, 1927, *Henderson 8524*; Wildhorse Valley (east slope of Steen Mountains), June 20 (year ?), *Cusick 2594*; damp ground, lower canyon of Wild Horse Creek, east slope of Steen Mountains, June 29, 1925, *Peck 14144*; stream bank near mouth of Willow Creek canyon, east base of Pueblo Mountains, June 27, 1936, *Peck 19069*. The sheets collected by Cusick and Henderson are in the

Herbarium of the University of Oregon, those collected by Peck are in the Herbarium of Willamette University.

This interesting plant is apparently most nearly related to *Cirsium scopulorum* (Greene) Cockerell and *C. Clokeyi* Blake, but differs from both in several well marked characters. It is a conspicuous species by reason of its very robust habit, yellowish green color, large heads and very copious yellow spines.

University of Oregon, Eugene,
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IRA C. OTIS
(1861-1938)

It is with sincere regret that we report the passing of Mr. Ira C. Otis, who ranked high as a discriminating, skillful and enthusiastic botanical collector, notably of the genus *Carex*. Mr. Otis was born in Wisconsin in 1861, and moved to the state of Washington in 1889, where he continued to reside, except for a few years spent in California, until his death in Seattle, November 2, 1938.

He attended the University of Minnesota, studying mathematics and surveying, and entered actively into the latter profession before attaining his degree. As a surveyor, he helped locate several important highways and railways in Washington.

His first hobby was the solving of mathematical "brain twisters," but several years ago, while living at Olympia, he began to take walks with a local amateur botanist. Soon he became so interested in plant science that his books on mathematics were permanently laid aside, and thenceforth his eager mind was ever alert for plants that were new or interesting to him. He bought all the manuals of northwest botany obtainable, including a copy of the rare "Flora of Northwest America" by Thomas Howell. His plant specimens are always well selected and so skillfully prepared that they often look like paintings.

Identification of material in a new country is always difficult and, in spite of the pioneer work of Howell, Gorman, Henderson, Flett, Suksdorf, and Piper, the task is still difficult in the Pacific Northwest. Mr. Otis, like any other enthusiastic amateur, groped about for help, and a glance at his botanical correspondence shows that he discovered—as have so many other amateurs—a real friend in Dr. William R. Maxon, Curator of the National Herbarium. Mr. Otis sent some ferns to Dr. Maxon to identify, including in the bundle specimens of *Carex* and a borage. The *Carex* specimens were promptly turned over to Mr. K. K. Mackenzie who was at that time earnestly at work on a treatment of that difficult genus for Abram's "Illustrated Flora of the Pacific States"; the borage was given to Professor C. V. Piper.

Mr. Mackenzie was greatly pleased with the *Carex* collection